

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

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P 080745Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7144

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SWEL, MGEN, RP

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION VA HOSPITALIZATION

REF: STATE 166912

1. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CONSIDER INCORPORATING FOLLOWING INTO AMB MCCLOSKEY'S LETTER TO SENATOR PROXMIRE. UNDER TERMS OF PUBLIC LAW 93-82, FIXED MEDICAL RELATED EXPENSES CONSUMED APPROX \$200,000 OF THE CURRENT APPROPRIATION. ASSUMING THESE FIXED EXPENSES CONTINUE UNDER THE PROPOSED \$500,000 APPROPRIATION, REMAINING \$300,000 WOULD ONLY SUPPORT AVERAGE DAILY PATIENT LOAD (ADPL) OF 90 RATHER THAN CURRENT ADPL OF 400, OF WHICH 45 PERCENT TB. IT WOULD MEAN THAT UNDER THE GRANTS-IN-AID PROGRAM, THE US WOULD SUPPORT ONLY 10 PERCENT OF VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PATIENT LOAD. CURRENTLY, WE SUPPORT 50 PERCENT. USG WOULD LOSE PRESENT LEVERAGE IT HAS IN ENSURING MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE STANDARDS AT VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. BEGIN FYI: PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT GOP WOULD NOT ABSORB ADDITIONAL COST OF RUNNING HOSPITAL. CONSEQUENTLY, HOSPITAL STANDARDS LIKELY TO DECLINE APPRECIABLY. THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS OF CERTAIN INADEQUACIES AT HOSPITAL. USVA HAS BEEN ABLE TO CORRECT THESE BECAUSE OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THE HOSPITAL. END FYI. DECLINING STANDARDS OF CARE AT VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT NOT ONLY COMMON-WEALTH VETERANS BUT APPROX 100 US VETERANS WHO CURRENTLY

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RECEIVE CARE AT THIS HOSPITAL. SHOULD THE MEDICAL CARE

STANDARDS AT HOSPITAL DECREASE SIGNIFICANTLY AS WOULD BE CASE IF APPROPRIATION IS ONLY \$500,000, USG MAY BE COMPELLED TO TRANSFER US VETERANS FROM VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WHERE WE PAY 70 PESOS A DAY FOR THEIR CARE TO OTHER LOCAL HOSPITALS WHERE DAILY RATE CAN BE 70 DOLLARS (MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER) OR 168 DOLLARS (CLARK AIR BASE). THUS, THE ECONOMY EFFECTED IN THE SENATE VERSION OF BILL MIGHT BE MORE THAN OFFSET BY EXPENSES INCURRED IN TREATING US VETERANS IN OTHER HOSPITALS.

2. IN ADDITION TO PRACTICAL OBJECTION TO CUT, DEPARTMENT MIGHT MAKE FOLLOWING MORE GENERAL POINTS WHICH RELATE BOTH TO CURRENT BASE NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS AND SUBSTANCE OF US/GOP RELATIONS. USG TREATMENT OF VETERANS HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIGHLY CHARGED ISSUE FOR FILIPINOS. CONSENSUS HERE IS THAT FILIPINO VETERANS RECEIVE SECOND CLASS TREATMENT VIS A VIS US VETERANS AND THAT US MORE SOLICITOUS OF FORMER ENEMIES THAN ALLIES. PROPOSED HOSPITALIZATION CUT WILL REINFORCE THIS VIEW. GIVEN CURRENT BASE NEGOTIATIONS, PROPOSED CUT COMES AT WORST TIME POSSIBLE. GUIDED PRESS (ESPECIALLY ANTI-US COLUMNISTS LIKE VALENCIA) LIKELY TO USE IT TO DEMONSTRATE USG INGRATITUDE AS WELL AS TO SUGGEST USG WORD CAN NOT BE RELIED UPON.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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